



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD

Tel: 01258 450095 (General Office) 01258 451456 (Shops and Fundraising)

www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

Newsletter No. 57

SPRING 2019

The biggest and best Autumn Fair yet, takes over £10,000....



We were once again overwhelmed by the support of local people for the Annual Autumn Fair held on Saturday 20th October in the Corn Exchange, Blandford. Over 100 people joined the

queue formed in anticipation of the doors opening and throughout the morning there were so many people not just snapping up the bargains always found at the Hospital Fair, but there to support the charity and help raise money for projects at the Hospital and throughout the Community.

In 2017, the Fair broke all financial records and yet again in 2018, thanks to the generosity of local people, a new record was set. Gross takings amounted to more than



£10,600 and with all expenses taken in to account, the event made a profit of more than £9300. The Trustees of the charity would like to thank our members, and all of the local people who turned out on



the day, for their support. Most importantly we thank the huge team of volunteers that worked so hard to make the event a success. That team is already making plans for the next Autumn Fair on 19th October 2019! We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank you and Goodbye Mike and Eve...

Between them Mike and Eve Wood have been involved as volunteers for the Friends of Blandford Hospital for a total of 30 years. Eve joined as a ward volunteer over 20 years ago and has been helping out on a weekly basis ever since. When Mike retired 10 years ago, Eve persuaded him to join as a volunteer driver and he has been driving our clients to medical appointments and taking social trips out on the minibus ever since.



As he became more and more involved with the Friends, Mike was appointed a Trustee, Member of the Finance and Projects Group and joined the Management Board as Chairman of the Fundraising Group. He has been actively involved in all of our events and helping the teams in our 2 charity shops. In addition to her weekly ward duties, Eve has been a regular model and helper for the Fashion Show, stall holder at the Autumn Fair and provided invaluable help at the Golf Day each year.

They have also been involved across the wider community, especially in their village of Okeford Fitzpaine. Mike has also been a Rotarian in Sturminster Newton and was recently recognised for his community work by being appointed a Paul Harris Fellow, the "Service before Self" Award of which only 150 are granted internationally each year. This was a great achievement of which Mike is rightly proud.

Both Mike and Eve, as they leave the area, will be missed by The Trustees, Staff, Volunteers, Members and Clients of the Friends of Blandford Hospital. Their involvement and impact over the years has been huge and for that we thank them most sincerely. As they start a new life by the coast we wish them every happiness.

www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

Our new website is now live and is full of information about the Charity's History, Projects, Activities, Volunteering Opportunities, Events and Fundraising. It will be regularly updated with our latest news, projects and events. Please do enter the website address above in your browser and take a look for yourself.

Fundraising News...

The year of 2018 was again a busy one for the Fundraising team and the support of local people for our events continues to build. Our team of volunteers, that work across our shops and events, always pull out all of the stops to ensure success both financially and in terms of the charity's profile locally.

Throughout the year we held 5 Bingos at the Hospital which continue to increase in popularity. At this point I must thank, not just the Fundraising volunteers that run these events, but the wonderful Hospital Services team that give their own time to set up and clear up, to prepare and serve refreshments and allow us to use the dining room. Special thanks also go to Derek Holdeman who is our bingo caller.



In March, our Fashion Show and subsequent Clothing Sale in Sturminster Newton was most entertaining.



During May, our volunteer and renowned local artist, Joan Capron held a most profitable Affordable Art Exhibition in our Blandford Charity Shop.



Our Golf Day in June had the most team entries since we have been running the event and made a net profit of £2514. The event has grown in popularity every year and we have already had team slots reserved for the 2019 event.



Once again in September we took part in the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival weekend with our "pop up shop". The Sturminster Shop team were kept busy all weekend at the stall, and in our shop, with combined takings reaching over £1000.

Throughout the year we have received great support from a huge number of local businesses in terms of donating prizes, sponsorship and help with publicity. There are too many to name individually here but to each and every one, we say Thank You.

So now we move on to 2019 and as you read this we will already have held one of our Bingos and the team will be working hard on our future plans.

We are always grateful to receive any donations of items we can use as raffle prizes, bottles to use on our Tombola, perhaps unwanted gift items that we can rehome on your behalf, non-perishable food items to make up hampers and bingo prizes... The list is endless! If you have something to donate, then please do pop it in to either of our charity shops.

We are also keen to talk to you if you are a business that may be able to work in partnership with us on future events so do please get in touch with me on 01258 451456.

Our calendar for the year is set out below and we very much hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Full details of our events and fundraising activities can be found on our new website www.friendsofblandford.org.uk As always, your support is very much appreciated.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator, February 2019

Dates for your Diary

7th March	Bingo	Blandford Hospital
2nd May	Bingo	Blandford Hospital
6th June	Bingo	Blandford Hospital
14th June	Golf Day	Ashley Wood Golf Club
3rd July	AGM	Blandford Hospital
12th Sept	Bingo	Blandford Hospital
19th Oct	Autumn Fair	Corn Exchange Blandford
28th Nov	Christmas Bingo	Blandford Hospital

Save the date...

Fashion Show 2020

WHEN: Friday 13th March 2020 at 7.30pm

WHERE: The Exchange, Sturminster Newton

Details to follow in our Autumn Newsletter

A message from our Chairman...



Happy New Year to everyone and thank you for all the support you have given the Friends throughout the year. As you will know from the last newsletter, plans are being developed for the new musculoskeletal service which replaces the hydrotherapy pool.

This involves the redesigning of our physiotherapy outpatients department, creating extra treatment rooms. We are very excited about these plans and you can read more in our Project Manager's report.

I must mention the 2018 Autumn Fair which broke all records since the fairs began. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it the success it was, to all of you who came along on the day and of course Emma who organises these events.

I would like to offer my gratitude to Mike and Eve Wood who, after jointly giving over 30 years voluntary service to the Friends, are leaving Dorset for pastures new. As you will see from the article on the front page their input and involvement has been invaluable. They will both be missed very much and they promise to pop in to see us and keep in touch when they are in the area.

At the March Board meeting, Yvonne Thorne of Sturminster Newton was appointed as Chairperson of our Fundraising Group.

Some of you may be aware that I was appointed as a League of Friends Partner Governor to the Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust. This enables me to have direct access to the Trust Board as the role involves a monthly meeting to discuss current and future issues around the health service. This gives us an insight to future developments involving local hospitals and community services. I am able to give feedback to the Trust on any issues that are raised.

Our new website is now live and can be found under www.friendsofblandford.org.uk. Please do take some time to look at all of the information on the site. There is so much to see about the charity, our events, activities, membership and news. To get to us quickly, type the full website address in to the URL, rather than searching for it. Unfortunately, until we are able to disable our old website (which has been delayed for reasons outside our control), using a search Engine for Blandford Friends may bring up the old website.

We are also hoping that the website can be a useful tool for you to help us spread the word about the charity and encourage others to become members, not only for the Friends of Blandford, but also membership of the NHS Trust. The site will be regularly updated and our newsletters will be uploaded so you can read them online and share easily amongst your contacts.

At the last Friends Council meeting it was decided to review and update the Friend's Constitution, (which had been in force since the very early days under the West Dorset Health Authority and the North Dorset PCT) in order to reflect the changes in today's local NHS Trust. The Council also decided that the £1 contribution should be increased to a minimum of £5 per annum from 1st March 2019. We hope this increase in membership fees will not deter you from continuing your support to the Friends. We value your membership greatly and all the work that is done in the hospital and the community.

Let's hope that 2019 is a good year for our hospital and our members. I thank you all for your ongoing support.

Steve Cole, Chairman, Spring 2019

"Make a Friend a Friend!"

Our members are our best recruiting tool so please continue to spread the word about our charity amongst your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

The membership drive is ongoing and we must remember that our organisation becomes stronger as the membership grows.

Membership Subscriptions

Annual membership will be due in April.

A subscription renewal form and envelope are enclosed for your use.

If you do not already do so, please consider paying by Bank Standing Order this year and in future years. Payment by this method will help to significantly reduce our administration costs.

Please note, if you already pay by Standing Order, there is no need to send a subscription or complete the renewal form.

Thank you for your continued support.

Project Manager's Update...



Since my last report there has been some positive movement on the MSK [Musculoskeletal] Clinic.

Since my meeting last August with Samantha Leonard, The Head of Specialist Services for the Trust, when I was informed the Trust wish to make Blandford Hospital a local centre for MSK I have had

several meetings resulting in Architects being appointed to survey the area of the old hydrotherapy pool and draw up a proposal for three new treatment rooms. However, this design did not produce the floor areas required and resulted in MSK patients having to pass through the Physiotherapy Department.

So, it was back to the drawing board and rethinking the project. As a result, the area under consideration within the Physiotherapy Department was increased to include the gymnasium and a second proposal was created. The architect's new scheme was to relocate the gym to the area originally occupied by the old hydrotherapy pool and the three MSK treatment rooms to be constructed within the old gymnasium. This proposal met with everyone's approval.

A cost plan has now been completed by the Quantity Surveyors along with preliminary specification for air handling, ventilation and air conditioning.

The target for this stage was to have a project up to preliminary layout design and costed ready for it to be considered for inclusion in this year's Capital Programme. The directors were to meet early this year and as we go to print for this spring edition I am still waiting for the result of the January meeting.

I still await a decision on our wish to refurbish The Blandford Hospital Theatre. The trust is aware of our desire to also move forward with this project as they are reminded every time we meet.

It has now been confirmed to me that theatre project is also included in the very long list of proposals from all the community hospitals within the Trust being considered by the directors for the 2019 Capital Programme. So, keep your fingers crossed for the result that we all want.

We have also been able to support smaller projects within our hospital. Our mission is to improve our patient's and visitor's experience when attending for a short stay, visiting a patient, attending our Outpatients, MIU or Physiotherapy, and therefore we consider requests from across the hospital departments.

The first recent request was from Hotel Services which also provides all the food for the patients in Tarrant Ward and for staff and hospital visitors who frequent the Dining Room.

They asked financial support in providing new tables, chairs, a two-seater settee, three low back armchairs and a coffee table for the Dining Room.

This was a request that we considered to be a very worthwhile project as it was an area of the hospital used by so many.

The result is a great improvement visually, the colour scheme is refreshing, the chairs far more comfortable and the new tables allow wheel chairs to be moved right up to the table as the wheel chair arms can move under the table top. Pop in to the dining room next time you are passing and you can see the difference yourself.



The other request was received from Tarrant Ward, explaining that although they had a "Tilt and Space recliner armchair", they could use one more to assist in the "day to day" movement of patients within the Ward.

The Management Board agreed with this request also, and the hospital purchase was made.

I look forward to updating you again in our Autumn Newsletter.

*Mac McLaughlin, President and Project Manager,
February 2019.*

Charity Golf Day

FRIDAY 14TH JUNE 2019

PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE
FOR FURTHER DETAILS



Shop News...

Our shops in Blandford and Sturminster Newton continue to thrive and their success is down to the wonderful teams of volunteers that give their time and enthusiasm. We do try to get our shop teams together at least twice a year at a social



occasion to thank them all and it was a pleasure to host 90 volunteers at our belated Christmas dinners in January. Both shops really do have fantastic teams and I am proud to work with them.

As this newsletter reaches you, we will be launching our Spring and Summer ranges and are looking forward to seeing the lighter and brighter colours and fabrics as a sign that winter is behind us.



We thank you, our members and our local supporters, for your generous donations to keep our stock levels up. Just as we never know what will come through our sorting room door, you as customers will always be surprised by some of the items that you will find on display. Please keep your donations coming, we are easy to find and are happy to help you unload. Should you like us to collect then give me a call on 01258 451456 and I will arrange for our van to drop by. We particularly need good quality clothing, portable electrical appliances, bric a brac, jewellery, toys and gift items.

If you haven't visited us recently, do pop in to either of our shops. You are assured of a friendly welcome and there is nothing more satisfying than finding "just the thing" at a bargain price.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join us in the shops. If you are interested then please pop in to the shop for an application form or give me a call on 01258 451456.

We hope to see you bargain hunting with us soon!

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator

Our shops can be found at:

Innes Court, Sturminster. Tel: **01258 471245**

Open Mon: 0900–1600 Tues–Fri: 1000–1600 Sat: 0930–1230

Barnack Walk, Blandford. Tel: **01258 458390**

Open Mon–Sat: 1000–1600

Our Charity Shops hit the spot...

- They provide a huge variety of goods that will often surprise even the most regular of customers. You never know what you may find!
- Value for money purchases are the norm in our charity shops. Quality goods at low prices that please the customers, whether they are on a tight budget, looking to support our charity, bargain hunting for fun or perhaps preferring a more sustainable approach to finding the things they need.
- By donating your unwanted items to a charity shop you are reducing landfill. Even if we can't sell it, we do our best to recycle it!
- Our shops have over 100 volunteers from all walks of life, all giving their time for their own reasons. Those volunteers maybe there to "give something back", they may be looking to enhance their lives and make the most of the social side of volunteering or perhaps looking for opportunities to gain skills, confidence and experience.
- Our Charity shops are "the shop window" for the charity and the volunteers are the "front line ambassadors" who are always happy to talk to customers and visitors about the wider charitable activities
- The Hospital shops are also hubs of the community. Customers become friends and often pop in to say hello and pass the time of day. The shops are a hive of information and our volunteers love to share tips, information and help out however they can.

Why not come and see for yourself?

Thank you Ted and Angela...

Shop volunteer Angela Aston and her Husband Ted celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in December. Instead of receiving gifts they asked guests at their celebration to make a donation to the Friends of Blandford Hospital.



President Mac McLaughlin was delighted to be presented with £400 by Angela. Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary Ted and Angie, and thank you for your generosity.

We are always looking for new volunteers in our shops who are either prepared to make a regular commitment of a few hours per week or fortnight or perhaps would prefer to work on an "as and when" basis. If you are interested, please pop in to the shop for an application form or give me a call ihe Friends' Office on 01258 451456.

Matron's Update...



I am now well and truly settled in my role as Matron at Blandford Community Hospital. All the teams that work or are based here are amazing and it is great to work with them to achieve the high quality patient care which is evident when I walk around the hospital. We are all very proud of our services.

Tarrant Ward has been re-accredited and awarded the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) Community Hospitals Hallmark Award for sustaining the high quality of supportive care provided for people nearing the end of life. This is a huge achievement; Blandford was the first community hospital to be re-accredited so well done to all the team involved in achieving this award. Thanks to the Friends our patients have access to a Tovertafel, this system has been designed for people in their late stages of dementia. The Tovertafel is an amazing piece of equipment of real benefit to the patients and we are so lucky to have it. I have been known to have a play when passing by!

Currently with the "Friends" support we are looking at redesigning our Out-patient Physiotherapy department and creating additional treatment rooms, plans are being drafted and hopefully work will commence in the near future.

You may have read in the press that Dorset Health Care has been awarded £15.2 million towards the continued reorganisation of the county's NHS. A significant amount will go towards developing a GP and Community Services Hub at Blandford. This is great news for Blandford and we will be working closely with our GP colleagues on what the model will look like for Blandford in the future.

Also, the NHS Long term plan has been released. The main headlines from this are:

- Making sure everyone gets the best start in life (this includes maternity and children services)
- Delivering world-class care for major health problems, prevention of heart attacks, strokes and dementia cases.
- Supporting people to age well, this is where Blandford Hospital fits in as this is increasing funding for community care
- Developing rapid community response teams
- Giving people more say about the care they receive and where they receive it, particularly towards the end of their lives.

There are some exciting times ahead for the NHS and Community Services are definitely a big part of this. This is good news for the future of Blandford Community Hospital, I will keep you posted on developments throughout 2019.

Helen Hunt, Hospital Matron, January 2019

Damory Vets add extra Magic to Tarrant Ward...

The patients on Tarrant Ward have recently been enjoying the benefits of a music box system that has been purchased to use in Conjunction with the Tovertafel system installed last year funded by the Friends of Blandford Hospital.

This additional piece has been funded by the generous support of the Damory Veterinary clinic in Blandford in response to a request from regular ward volunteer Eileen Walters. It adds music to the projector system and the speakers, sensors and projector all work together and interactively with the patients.

The Tovertafel box is a high quality projector with infra-red sensors and speakers and processors that work together to project games onto a table. There are two of these boxes on Tarrant Ward. The colourful objects respond to hand and arm movements and the interactive games break through apathy by stimulating both physical and cognitive activity and encouraging social interaction. The system stimulates people with Dementia, it can sooth those that are distressed through the distraction of games and can be used with larger groups of patients to stimulate social interaction.

The music box addition, funded by Damory Vets, enhances the box further and Patients on the Ward find music of benefit immensely as song evokes beautiful memories and it brings about fantastic social interaction.

To quote a recent patient on the ward... "It's Magical!"

Thank you Eileen and the team at the Damory Veterinary Clinic for your support.



Pictured here, L-R are David Harding (Damory Vets), Jayne Kiernan (HCA), Natalie Rose-Forrest (HCA), Gill Wood (Ward Manager), Eileen Walters (Volunteer) Donna Rendell (Senior Sister) and Oliver Andrews (HCA).

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

Help us make a difference!

As Spring approaches it's an exciting time of year as we start the planning of our social trips which predominately take place through the lighter and brighter months ahead. It's always nice to have something to look forward to after a cold winter.

We have just held our annual post-Christmas volunteer dinner to say a huge "thank you" to our amazing, dedicated team of volunteers. It is them we have to thank for the services we deliver, from the transport to medical appointments, the drivers and escorts of our minibus who enable our social and shopping trips to take place and not forgetting our team of companions who break up the day of lonely, isolated people.



Pictured here are just a few of our many volunteers at our Thank you Dinner.

There is a particular couple I would like to mention and that is Mike & Eve Wood. Eve has been a ward volunteer for a phenomenal 20 years here at the hospital, with Mike being a volunteer for community services for the last 10 years. I think you will agree that is pretty amazing and I know they will be greatly missed, not only by me but also by the many, many people they have assisted during this time. They both became not only volunteers but also friends. Mike and Eve, we wish you every happiness in whatever new ventures lie ahead!



We said our Goodbyes to Mike and Eve (pictured in the centre) at the hospital in January and were joined by volunteers, members of the Management Board and some of the team from Tarrant Ward.

As you are hopefully aware we have a minibus and three times a week we endeavor to take people shopping. We currently have some spaces available and if you know of anyone who might benefit from using this service, please do get in contact. We ask that people requesting this service have no real other means of getting into town and are fairly able to go around the supermarket on their own. Of course, our escorts are there to assist, where necessary and will help you onto the bus and carry your shopping into your house, if you so wish. As for all of our services, a GP referral is necessary but please do call me first to discuss. Many isolated villages have poor public transport links and we know only too well how difficult this can make it.



MVS for the second year running did a "bulb promotion". For every bulb replaced at MVS through December a donation was made via MVS & Jayar Car Parts. They presented a cheque to the value of £317.78. A huge thank you to MVS for their continued support.



Pictured here is Tony Vincent from MVS, Lisa Deverell, Community Services Co-ordinator for the Friends of Blandford Hospital and Andy Hackleton, Jayar Branch Manager.

Lisa Deverell, Community Services Co-ordinator, February 2019.

Well Done Grace...

The Friends of Blandford Hospital give a prize each year as part of the Blandford School Presentation Evening.

The prize is given to the student who has demonstrated throughout the year the most to promote healthy living at the school. Our President, Mac McLaughlin had the pleasure of presenting the prize this year to Grace Richie. Congratulations Grace, keep up the good work.



The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital

WIMBORNE ROAD, BLANDFORD, DORSET. DT11 9HN

Tel: 01258 452253 www.ashleywoodgolfclub.com



Charity Golf Day

Supporting Projects and Facilities at the Local Hospital

Friday 14th June 2019

18 Hole Team Texas Scramble

Full Handicap

9.00am Shotgun Start

Entry Fee £180:00 Team of 4

Entry Fee Includes;

Coffee & Bacon Roll on Arrival

2 Course Lunch after Round followed by Prize Ceremony

On course challenges both Male & Female

Take on the 18th Hole Challenge (Not included in the entry fee)

Further details from The Friends' Office Telephone 01258 451456

www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital is a Registered Charity Number 800482